

U N D E R T A K I N G
by
THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND
in favour of
THE XYZ TRUST

1995

Subjects:- The Mar Lodge Estate

ANDERSON STRATHERN, WS

U N D E R T A K I N G

by

THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND FOR
PLACES OF HISTORIC INTEREST OR NATURAL
BEAUTY, incorporated under The National
Trust for Scotland Order Confirmation
Acts 1935-73 (hereinafter referred to
as "NTS")

in favour of

(hereinafter referred to as "The XYZ
Trust")

CONSIDERING that The XYZ Trust has agreed to make a substantial donation to facilitate the acquisition by the NTS of The Mar Lodge Estate and has requested from NTS a statement of their principles for the future management of the Estate in the event that negotiations are successful for the acquisition of the said Mar Lodge Estate NOW THEREFORE the NTS binds and obliges itself to adhere to the following principles in its management of the said Mar Lodge Estate, videlicet:-

(FIRSTLY) The principal aim of the NTS shall be to manage the Estate in a sustainable manner for the benefit of the nation, ensuring the continuing conservation and restoration of its internationally important geology, flora, fauna, wild land quality and archaeological value;

(SECONDLY) Subject always to its management of the Estate in accordance with the principal aim -

(i) The NTS shall ensure appropriate public access to the Estate, subject always to the maintenance of landscape and nature conservation interests;

(ii) The NTS shall manage the Estate so as to conserve its valuable ecological and landscape features in harmony with its maintenance as a Highland Sporting Estate for so long as field sports remain legal. Such management will be carried out in a manner which will so far as possible enhance the social, cultural and economic well-being of the local community. Declaring that it is intended to demonstrate that the practice of fields sports can be reconciled with the NTS' statutory obligation to promote public access;

(iii) The NTS shall ensure that there is a presumption in favour of the natural regeneration of the native Caledonian pine forest through the effective management of the number of deer. Notwithstanding the foregoing it is understood that in certain circumstances, for example where no suitable native seed source exists, some

initial planting and fencing may be required but such planting shall not be carried out in areas where the quality of heather moorland would be adversely affected;

(iv) That part of the Estate lying to the south and west of the River Dee and comprising heather moorland shall be sensitively managed to promote its proper conservation in terms of grouse habitat, nature conservation and landscape;

(v) The NTS shall not permit the development of facilities which would compromise the wild land quality of the Estate. The principle of "the long walk in" shall be maintained at all times and the hills shall not be made easier or safer to climb. Notwithstanding the foregoing in the short to medium term at least access by the NTS' vehicles may be exercised to carry out effective conservation, deer management and field sports activities. Otherwise the NTS shall make continuous and constant efforts to dissuade, and where possible to prohibit, the use of mechanical or wheeled vehicles and all mechanical recreational activities beyond the environs of Mar Lodge;

(vi) The NTS will favour the continuing use

of existing buildings for their original purpose. Notwithstanding the foregoing the NTS may carry out some development of Mar Lodge including a viable visitor facility but such development shall not compromise the principal burden so far as affecting areas beyond the environs of Mar Lodge;

(vii) The NTS will share with the public an appreciation of the issues involved in managing the Estate as a wild land area, through appropriate interpretation and education;

(viii) The NTS will manage the Estate, recognising that it forms part of the wider Cairngorms area: IN WITNESS WHEREOF